

available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation of patent. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

Apart from this, Government has also initiated an exercise to develop a digital database of traditional knowledge in the field of medicinal plants to avoid patenting of such knowledge.

Illegal Trade across the Border

1574. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons arrested in 1999 and 2000 in connection with illegal trade across the open border;
- (b) the details of such illegal trades; and
- (c) the joint efforts being made by the countries across the borders to check such trades?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Number of persons arrested by DRI in 1999 and 2000 till date in connection with illegal trade across the open borders is given under:—

Indo-Nepal border		Indo-Bhutan border	
1999	2000 (till date)	1999	2000 (till date)
27	24	Nil	Nil

“open borders” has been taken to mean the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders.

(b) As per the information given by Deptt. of Revenue, the number of persons arrested in connection with smuggling activities is 851 in 1999 and 438 in 2000 with includes 133 and 95 foreign nationals arrested in 1999 and 2000 respectively.

The details of seizure of major commodities during 1999 and 2000 are given in the enclosed statement (See below).

(c) Draft Agreement for Bilateral Co-operation with Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka are under consideration of Deptt. of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. All field formations of the Customs Department and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods.

Statement

Value of Seizures of Major Commodities (Rs. in Lakhs)

Item	1999	2000
Narcotics (LMV)	3828	1370
Gold Qty. in Kgs.	913	433
Value	3955	1856
Foreign Currency	2076	1065
Indian Currency	415	419
Yarn/Fabric etc.	4192	606
Electronic items	8779	978

[7 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Training and Research Facilities to Students/Staff Members

1575. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry offers training, research facilities and courses of higher studies to the students/staff members in the areas of International trade, packaging, diamonds processing and other courses through different institutes falling under its administrative control;
- (b) if so, the year-wise total number of students/staff members trained in such institutes during the last five years; and
- (c) the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them and their percentage as compared to the total number?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) While Department of Commerce does not directly engage itself in training and research activities, various institutions such as Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) and Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) etc., offer such facilities through various programmes.

(b) and (c) The details are annexed.

SESSION	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	SC/ST
1996	36	—
1997	40	1
1998	38	—
1999	45	—
2000	33	—